



1 **§102(e) Rejections**

2 Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 14, 15, 40, 41 and 43 stand rejected under 35
3 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over Eyer et al. In view of the §131
4 Declaration, the Eyer reference is removed as prior art. Applicant respectfully
5 requests withdrawal of the §102 rejection.

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7 **§103 Rejections**

8 Claims 3 and 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being
9 unpatentable over Eyer in view of Hidary et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,778,181); claims
10 7-10, 16, 18-21, 23-29, 31-37, 39 and 44 stand rejected under §103(a) over Eyer in
11 view of King et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,621,428); claims 17, 45-48, and 50 stand
12 rejected under §103(a) over Eyer in view of King and further in view of Hidary;
13 claim 13 stands rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Eyer in view of
14 Borman et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,890,172); claims 22, 30, and 38 stand rejected
15 under §103(a) over Eyer in view of King, and further in view of Borman; and
16 claim 49 stands rejected under §103(a) over Eyer in view of King, and further in
17 view of Hidary, and further in view of Borman.

18 In view of the §131 Declaration, the Eyer reference is removed as prior art.
19 Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the §103 rejections.

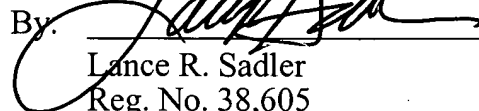


1 Conclusion

2 Claims 1-50 are in condition ~~for~~ allowance. Applicant respectfully requests
3 reconsideration and prompt issuance of the subject application. Should any issue
4 remain that prevents immediate issuance of the application, the Examiner is
5 encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney to discuss the unresolved issue.

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7 Respectfully Submitted,

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9 Dated: 4/3/00

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